

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

DATE: January 9, 2008

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:53 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Ryan Vaughn, Chair
Vernon Brown
Bob Cockrum
Ed Coleman
Mary Moriarty Adams
William Oliver
Marilyn Pfisterer
Christine Scales

Absent Members

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 5, 2008 - approves the Mayor's appointment of Scott C. Newman as the Director of the Department of Public Safety

"Do Pass"

Vote: 8-0

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, January 9, 2008. Chair Vaughn called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present: Vernon Brown, Bob Cockrum, Ed Coleman, Mary Moriarty Adams, William Oliver, Marilyn Pfisterer, and Christine Scales.

PROPOSAL NO. 5, 2008 - approves the Mayor's appointment of Scott C. Newman as the Director of the Department of Public Safety

Scott Newman, the Mayoral appointment for Director of the Department of Public Safety, said it is an honor to come before the committee and he is excited about this opportunity. He said that he was a former deputy prosecutor in Marion County, a federal prosecutor for the southern district of Indiana, and was elected Marion County Prosecutor twice. Mr. Newman said, after leaving office, he pursued a job with a law firm in town doing litigation work around the country. He went on to establish a DNA laboratory called Strand Analytical Laboratories, LLC, which continues to operate. Mr. Newman said he has separated himself from that company by a memorandum to all parties affected through any discussions of procurement by Marion County or another outside laboratory. He said he is looking forward to having a great relationship with the Council, to provide good insight and ask questions. Mr. Newman said the city has great challenges facing the community, one being the crime trend. Public servants are aware that there are many causes for the crime problem, but they cannot solve them by themselves and need the public to work together to decrease crime.

Councillor Pfisterer asked Mr. Newman to share some of his thoughts on what he would like to put into place as the Director of Public Safety. Mr. Newman said he believes collaboration will assist in reducing crime. For example, collaborations between the Probation Department, Prosecutor's Office, and the Police Department will be extremely effective, with strict enforcement of probation conditions. He said this will allow police officers to know who is on probation in a given area and what the conditions of the probation may be. The Prosecutor's Office needs to know which cases they need to make the most important with the enforcement of probation conditions. He said when the three are combined, more night visits by probation officers and police officers are possible. Mr. Newman said these conditions should be enforced strictly, looking for guns in the hands of convicted felons. He said it is his strong belief that the fastest way to reduce violent crime is to make sure convicted felons do not carry firearms. Mr. Newman said he is currently gathering data on the statistics of how many people are arrested, and what percentage of those people had pending cases at the time they were arrested. He said, over time, that number has increased. The number of those people has also increased for being released again on the second case. Mr. Newman said there is no benefit to having more police officers on the street if an officer is not able to keep that offender in jail. He said the Criminal Justice System has to keep up with the police officers' and resources, and a better job needs to be done to protect citizens in the neighborhood by including them in the crime fight. Mr. Newman said it is his goal to ensure that the City uses the

resources they already have wisely. If they occupy jail cells efficiently they do so in a way that does City has wisely and if they occupy jail cells with somebody they do so in a way that does some good for public safety.

Councillor Oliver asked how Mr. Newman will approach the other initiatives under the purview of the Public Safety Director. Mr. Newman said he has been in discussions regarding the reentry program and how they can reach out to those being released. He said there are a lot of elements already in place that address this issue which need to be brought together to help offenders.

David Myers, citizen, said he agrees that citizens need to get involved to help in the fight on crime and he supports Mr. Newman being the next Public Safety Director.

Aaron Sullivan, Immediate Past-President of the Fraternal Order of Police Local 86 (FOP), said the FOP and members of the police department support the move of the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) from the control of the Sheriff's Office to the Mayor's Office and the Public Safety Director. He said they are looking forward to working with Mr. Newman and his office to make the change happen as smoothly as possible.

Councillor Moriarty Adams moved, seconded by Councillor Pfisterer, to send Proposal No. 5, 2008 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Vaughn, Chair
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

RV/as